

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
Charlottesville Division**

ELIZABETH SINES, SETH WISPELWEY,  
MARISSA BLAIR, APRIL MUNIZ,  
MARCUS MARTIN, NATALIE ROMERO,  
CHELSEA ALVARADO, THOMAS BAKER  
and JOHN DOE,

Plaintiffs,

v.

JASON KESSLER, RICHARD SPENCER,  
CHRISTOPHER CANTWELL, JAMES  
ALEX FIELDS, JR., VANGUARD  
AMERICA, ANDREW ANGLIN,  
MOONBASE HOLDINGS, LLC, ROBERT  
“AZZMADOR” RAY, NATHAN DAMIGO,  
ELLIOT KLINE a/k/a ELI MOSLEY,  
IDENTITY EVROPA, MATTHEW  
HEIMBACH, MATTHEW PARROTT a/k/a  
DAVID MATTHEW PARROTT,  
TRADITIONALIST WORKER PARTY,  
MICHAEL HILL, MICHAEL TUBBS,  
LEAGUE OF THE SOUTH, JEFF SCHOEP,  
NATIONAL SOCIALIST MOVEMENT,  
NATIONALIST FRONT, AUGUSTUS SOL  
INVICTUS, FRATERNAL ORDER OF THE  
ALT-KNIGHTS, MICHAEL “ENOCH”  
PEINOVICH, LOYAL WHITE KNIGHTS OF  
THE KU KLUX KLAN, and EAST COAST  
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN a/k/a  
EAST COAST KNIGHTS OF THE TRUE  
INVISIBLE EMPIRE,

Defendants.

**Civil Action No. 3:17-cv-00072-NKM**

**PLAINTIFFS’ POSITION ON TRANSPORTATION COSTS OF DEFENDANT  
CHRISTOPHER CANTWELL**

Plaintiffs respectfully submit this response pursuant to the Court’s order of September 15, 2021, directing the parties to state “their position(s) with respect to payment of transportation costs” of Christopher Cantwell to trial. ECF 1075 at 2.

It is Plaintiffs’ position that the cost of transporting Mr. Cantwell should in the first instance be borne by Mr. Cantwell himself, who brought the writ *ad testificandum*. In the Fourth Circuit, the cost of transportation of an incarcerated defendant at civil proceedings is undertaken at the “[defendant’s] own or government expense,” *Muhammad v. Warden, Baltimore City Jail*, 849 F.2d 107, 113 (4th Cir. 1988).

Assuming that Mr. Cantwell does not have the funds available to cover the relevant costs of attending the entire trial in person, which we understand to be \$15,927.00, the costs should otherwise be covered by the United States Marshals. Courts have routinely ordered the United States Marshals to execute a writ *ad testificandum* — and pay for its execution — when a prisoner is indigent. *See, e.g., Hawks v. Timms*, 35 F. Supp. 2d 464, 468 (D. Md. 1999); *Ballard v. Spradley*, 557 F.2d 476, 481 (5th Cir. 1977); *Rivera v. Santirocco*, 814 F.2d 859, 864 (2d Cir. 1987); *see also Story v. Robinson*, 689 F.2d 1176, 1179 (3rd Cir. 1982) (the authority of federal courts to issue writs ad testificandum has never “been qualified by a requirement that the respondent custodian, state or federal, be compensated for compliance with the writ”). “[T]he possibility that a lack of transportation funds or personnel will develop is not a justification for refusing to issue the writ of habeas corpus ad testificandum,” *Hawks*, 35 F. Supp. 2d at 468 (quoting *Greene v. Prunty*, 938 F. Supp. 637, 640 (S.D.Cal. 1996) (alterations omitted)). Indeed, courts have ordered that the United States Marshals pay for transportation costs for indigent prisoners, even over the Marshals’ objections or a claimed lack of funds. *See Ballard*, 557 F.2d at 481 (noting “the Marshals Service may be able to meet the expense from contingency funding”); *Hawks*, 35 F. Supp. 2d at

468; *Rivera*, 814 F.2d at 864.<sup>1</sup>

Plaintiffs are mindful of the not insignificant costs and security concerns associated with bringing Mr. Cantwell to Charlottesville for the entirety of the relatively lengthy trial (including transporting him to and from the courthouse each day). Accordingly, in an effort to address these concerns, Plaintiffs respectfully submit that it would make sense for the Marshals to bring Mr. Cantwell to Charlottesville only for his own testimony (which we would anticipate should last 1-2 days at most),<sup>2</sup> after which Mr. Cantwell could participate via videoconference, as previously discussed and arranged with the Court. *See Ballard*, 557 F.2d at 478-79 (affirming district court order directing U.S. Marshals to produce prisoner only for his live testimony and “returning him to … custody when his presence was no longer required”); *Story*, 689 F.2d at 1777 (same). That should not only result in significant cost savings for the Marshals, but is also consistent with what we understand other Defendants, such as Richard Spencer, intend to do.

Date: September 17, 2021

Respectfully submitted,



Roberta A. Kaplan (*pro hac vice*)  
Julie E. Fink (*pro hac vice*)  
Gabrielle E. Tenzer (*pro hac vice*)  
Michael L. Bloch (*pro hac vice*)  
Yotam Barkai (*pro hac vice*)  
Emily C. Cole (*pro hac vice*)  
Alexandra K. Conlon (*pro hac vice*)  
Jonathan R. Kay (*pro hac vice*)

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<sup>1</sup> Plaintiffs are unaware of any authority wherein a Court ordered a private litigant to pay for the execution of a writ *ad testificandum* of an opposing party, nor are they aware of a case in which a court predicated granting the writ on payment by another private party. *Greene v. Prunty*, 938 F. Supp. 637, 640 (S.D. Cal. 1996), refers to the sharing of costs among the prisoner and various government entities.

<sup>2</sup> Plaintiffs are happy to coordinate with the Court and U.S. Marshals on timing, logistics or any other matter.

Benjamin D. White (*pro hac vice*)  
KAPLAN HECKER & FINK LLP  
350 Fifth Avenue, 63rd Floor  
New York, NY 10118  
Telephone: (212) 763-0883  
[rkaplan@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:rkaplan@kaplanhecker.com)  
[jfink@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:jfink@kaplanhecker.com)  
[gtenzer@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:gtenzer@kaplanhecker.com)  
[mbloch@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:mbloch@kaplanhecker.com)  
[ybarkai@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:ybarkai@kaplanhecker.com)  
[ecole@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:ecole@kaplanhecker.com)  
[aconlon@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:aconlon@kaplanhecker.com)  
[jkay@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:jkay@kaplanhecker.com)  
[bwhite@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:bwhite@kaplanhecker.com)

*Counsel for Plaintiffs*

Of Counsel:

Roberta A. Kaplan (*pro hac vice*)  
Julie E. Fink (*pro hac vice*)  
Gabrielle E. Tenzer (*pro hac vice*)  
Michael L. Bloch (*pro hac vice*)  
Yotam Barkai (*pro hac vice*)  
Emily C. Cole (*pro hac vice*)  
Alexandra K. Conlon (*pro hac vice*)  
Jonathan R. Kay (*pro hac vice*)  
Benjamin D. White (*pro hac vice*)  
KAPLAN HECKER & FINK LLP  
350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 7110  
New York, NY 10118  
Telephone: (212) 763-0883  
[rkaplan@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:rkaplan@kaplanhecker.com)  
[jfink@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:jfink@kaplanhecker.com)  
[gtenzer@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:gtenzer@kaplanhecker.com)  
[mbloch@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:mbloch@kaplanhecker.com)  
[ybarkai@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:ybarkai@kaplanhecker.com)  
[ecole@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:ecole@kaplanhecker.com)  
[aconlon@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:aconlon@kaplanhecker.com)  
[jkay@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:jkay@kaplanhecker.com)  
[bwhite@kaplanhecker.com](mailto:bwhite@kaplanhecker.com)

Robert T. Cahill (VSB 38562)  
COOLEY LLP  
11951 Freedom Drive, 14th Floor  
Reston, VA 20190-5656  
Telephone: (703) 456-8000  
Fax: (703) 456-8100  
[rcahil@cooley.com](mailto:rcahil@cooley.com)

Karen L. Dunn (*pro hac vice*)  
William A. Isaacson (*pro hac vice*)  
Jessica Phillips (*pro hac vice*)  
Arpine S. Lawyer (*pro hac vice*)  
PAUL WEISS RIFKIND WHARTON &  
GARRISON LLP  
2001 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-1047  
Telephone: (202) 223-7300  
Fax: (202) 223-7420  
[jphillips@paulweiss.com](mailto:jphillips@paulweiss.com)  
[kdunn@paulweiss.com](mailto:kdunn@paulweiss.com)  
[wisaacson@paulweiss.com](mailto:wisaacson@paulweiss.com)  
[alawyer@paulweiss.com](mailto:alawyer@paulweiss.com)

Makiko Hiromi (*pro hac vice*)  
Nicholas A. Butto (*pro hac vice*)  
PAUL WEISS RIFKIND WHARTON &  
GARRISON LLP  
1285 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10019-6064  
Telephone: (212) 373-3000  
Fax: (212) 757-3990  
[mhiromi@paulweiss.com](mailto:mhiromi@paulweiss.com)  
[nbutto@paulweiss.com](mailto:nbutto@paulweiss.com)

Alan Levine (*pro hac vice*)  
Philip Bowman (*pro hac vice*)  
COOLEY LLP  
55 Hudson Yards  
New York, NY 10001  
Telephone: (212) 479-6260  
Fax: (212) 479-6275  
[alevine@cooley.com](mailto:alevine@cooley.com)  
[pbowman@cooley.com](mailto:pbowman@cooley.com)

David E. Mills (*pro hac vice*)  
Joshua M. Siegel (VSB 73416)  
Caitlin B. Munley (*pro hac vice*)  
Samantha A Strauss (*pro hac vice*)  
Alexandra Eber (*pro hac vice*)  
COOLEY LLP  
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20004  
Telephone: (202) 842-7800  
Fax: (202) 842-7899  
[dmills@cooley.com](mailto:dmills@cooley.com)  
[jsiegel@cooley.com](mailto:jsiegel@cooley.com)  
[cmunley@cooley.com](mailto:cmunley@cooley.com)  
[sastrauß@cooley.com](mailto:sastrauß@cooley.com)  
[aeber@cooley.com](mailto:aeber@cooley.com)

J. Benjamin Rottenborn (VSB 84796)  
WOODS ROGERS PLC  
10 South Jefferson St., Suite 1400  
Roanoke, VA 24011  
Telephone: (540) 983-7600  
Fax: (540) 983-7711  
[brottenborn@woodsrogers.com](mailto:brottenborn@woodsrogers.com)

*Counsel for Plaintiffs*

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on September 17, 2021, I filed the foregoing with the Clerk of Court through the CM/ECF system, which will send a notice of electronic filing to:

Elmer Woodard  
5661 US Hwy 29  
Blairs, VA 24527  
isuecrooks@comcast.net

James E. Kolenich  
Kolenich Law Office  
9435 Waterstone Blvd. #140  
Cincinnati, OH 45249  
jek318@gmail.com

David L. Campbell  
Justin Saunders Gravatt  
Duane, Hauck, Davis & Gravatt, P.C.  
100 West Franklin Street, Suite 100  
Richmond, VA 23220  
dcampbell@dhdgllaw.com  
jgravatt@dhdgllaw.com

*Counsel for Defendant James A. Fields, Jr.*

*Counsel for Defendants Jason Kessler, Nathan Damigo, and Identity Europa, Inc. (Identity Europa)*

Bryan Jones  
106 W. South St., Suite 211  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
bryan@bjoneslegal.com

William Edward ReBrook, IV  
The ReBrook Law Office  
6013 Clerkenwell Court  
Burke, VA 22015  
edward@rebrooklaw.com

*Counsel for Defendants Michael Hill, Michael Tubbs, and League of the South*

*Counsel for Defendants Jeff Schoep, National Socialist Movement, Nationalist Front, Matthew Parrott, Traditionalist Worker Party and Matthew Heimbach*

Joshua Smith  
Smith LLC  
807 Crane Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15216-2079  
joshsmith2020@gmail.com

*Counsel for Defendants Matthew Parrott, Traditionalist Worker Party and Matthew Heimbach*

I hereby certify that on September 17, 2021, I also served the following non-ECF participants via mail and electronic mail:

Richard Spencer  
richardbspencer@icloud.com  
richardbspencer@gmail.com

Christopher Cantwell  
Christopher Cantwell 00991-509  
USP Marion, 4500 Prison Rd.  
P.O. Box 2000  
Marion, IL 62959

Vanguard America  
c/o Dillon Hopper  
dillon\_hopper@protonmail.com

Robert "Azzmador" Ray  
azzmador@gmail.com

Elliott Kline a/k/a Eli Mosley  
eli.f.mosley@gmail.com  
deplorabletruth@gmail.com  
eli.r.kline@gmail.com

  
Michael L Bloch (*pro hac vice*)  
KAPLAN HECKER & FINK LLP

Counsel for Plaintiffs